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14 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM : IAC Working Group on Vietminh Violations of the
Geneva Agreements

SUBJECT : Summary of Working Group Report and Recommendations

Reference: IAC-M-175, para. 2b

SUMMARY

1. On the basis of all available intelligence, it is obvious that the Vietminh has violated, as a matter of deliberate policy, the spirit and letter of the Geneva Agreements. Through its violations the Vietminh has increased substantially the capabilities of the regular army in North Vietnam and has retained a significant capability for political and para-military operations in South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Major violations have occurred as a result of the fact that the Vietminh has:

- a. Augmented the material strength of its armed forces by importing prohibited categories of military equipment from Communist China;

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- b. Failed to evacuate all military personnel from South Vietnam and Cambodia;
- c. Continued to exercise administrative and political authority in areas under the de jure authority of the Governments of South Vietnam and Laos;
- d. Failed to permit the free movement of refugees;
- e. Failed to observe the cease-fire in Laos.

2. Although we are certain that the violations listed above, and others of lesser significance, have occurred or are still taking place, the nature of the evidence is such as to make difficult the offering of final "proof." However, information from all sources, including confidential reports

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"firm," is sufficient to provide convincing evidence of all major categories of Vietminh violations.

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4. There are, moreover, great difficulties involved in obtaining an "official" verdict on protests lodged with the International Control Commissions operating in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In general, the Commissions have taken a "neutral" posture, predicated on the view that they are in Indochina to settle and resolve differences rather than to publicize or propagandize the allegations or charges of either side. Their ability to investigate has been hampered by inadequate staffing, by limitations imposed on their freedom of movement, and by the necessity to reach agreement within the Commission on the need for action in any situation. To date, the ICC's have not reported any "violations" of the Geneva Agreements.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the IAC note the attached Report and approve its circulation to all interested Departments of the US Government.

2. That in view of the continuing problem of Vietminh violations, and of the continuing importance to the US of this problem, the IAC approve the continued function of the Working Group. The Group requests authority to keep under constant scrutiny the intelligence on Vietminh violations and to report, perhaps quarterly, or when otherwise deemed necessary, to the IAC.

The following individuals are now members of the Working Group:

[redacted] ONE, Chairman
OIR
Mr. George Allen, G-2
Lt. Comdr. Robert Loomis, ONI
Mr. Jack Power, USAF
Col. Ward Gillette, Joint Staff
[redacted] CIA
, CIA
CIA

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